

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Holiday safety crucial to keep season festive

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — With the holidays right around the corner, Air Force Materiel Command experts are encouraging everyone to not take a holiday from safety.

Planning ahead and using operational risk management when traveling or doing anything else is a good way to keep safe during this festive time of year, according to John Sheehan, AFMC ground safety chief. Here's some leading causes of mishaps he suggests people review to reduce risks and improve the odds for an accident-free holiday season.

First, don't drink and drive. Alcohol dulls reaction time, impairs and divides attention, and slows information processing. Alcohol use was involved in 35 percent of fatal Air Force traffic mishaps this year, Sheehan said.

"This indicates we need to stay focused on not driving while impaired," he said. "Designated driver and ride

"If you're involved in an accident and not wearing a seatbelt, you're five times more likely to die. Seat belts work — use them!"

John Sheehan
AFMC ground safety chief

share programs are viable options. If you're going to drink, don't drive!"

With more and more people on the road during the holidays, Sheehan said it's now more important than ever to remember to "Buckle Up for Safety."

People not using seatbelts was a factor in 11 percent of Air Force fatalities this year.

Coping with the additional traffic will also be a challenge, Sheehan said. Even a quick trip to the corner store could pose a major risk not only because of the amount of traffic but potential slick road conditions — stay alert, buckle up and drive defensively.

"If you're involved in an accident and not wearing a seatbelt, you're five times more likely to die," he said.

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Photo by Rudy Purificato

Safety reminder

Thanks to the Air force Medical Support Agency's Population Health Support Division's Christmas Card display in front of Bldg. 125, Santa's "reckless driving" serves as a holiday warning to "don't drink and drive."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Holiday in Blue

Brooks personnel enjoyed the 2003 Holiday in Blue Concert, featuring the U.S. Air Force Band of the West Dec. 14 at Trinity University's Laurie Auditorium. Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing Commander had the honor of hosting the first-ever matinee performance.

Officials target military pay increases

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Military personnel will see their basic pay more in line with their civilian counterparts in the private sector in 2004 thanks to an increased pay and benefits compensation package. The package is included in the 2004 Defense Authorization Act approved by Congress.

The 2004 military pay and benefits plan provides a 3.7-percent across-the-board pay increase, said Col. Virginia S. Penrod, director of military compensation for the Department of Defense. It also targets pay increases for noncommissioned officers and warrant officers, some as high as 6.25 percent for senior-enlisted servicemembers.

Servicemembers will also see increases in housing allowance pay and special incentive pay.

The average basic pay raise, which is equal to a little more than 4 percent, helps to close the gap between military pay and civilian pay, Penrod said.

"Everyone receives a 3.7-percent pay raise across the board, this is by law," she said. The pay raise is a half percentage point more than private sector civilian employees will earn.

"The NCOs, E-5 through E-9, will receive targeted

pay raises from 4.6 to 6.25 percent," she said.

Part of the pay incentive is to help retain senior NCOs, she said. The highest pay raises, 6.25 percent, will go to E-9s with 26 years or more service.

"This (raise) recognizes the contribution of our senior noncommissioned officers and our career-enlisted force," Penrod said. "All NCOs will receive some form of a targeted raise, and the pay increases as the grade increases. So, it's an incentive to continue in the military and to pursue higher rank."

An average increase of almost 8 percent for military basic allowance for housing — money given to military personnel to help defray the cost of housing expenses — is also included in the package.

"The almost 8-percent increase for housing allowance continues our effort to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for military personnel," Penrod said. Pentagon officials said they are hopeful to do this by fiscal year 2005.

"When BAH was enacted, housing allowances amounted to 80 percent of housing costs, this left the servicemember with 20-percent out-of-pocket cost," she said. "In fiscal ... 2000, the secretary of defense committed the department to reduce these

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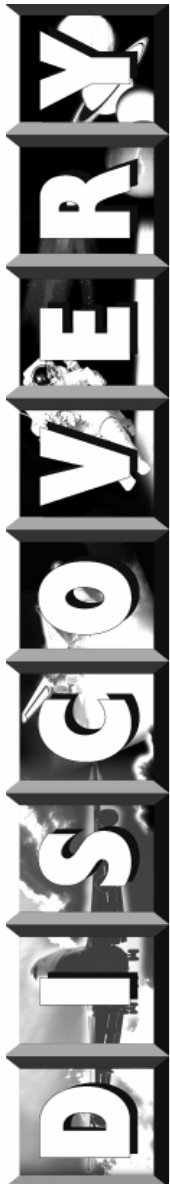
A look back
on this year
in Brooks
sports

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Have a safe
and happy
holiday
season~





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Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

Air Force leaders send holiday message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — *The following is a holiday message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:*

During this holiday season, Americans have placed their hopes for peace with those who have answered the call to secure freedom: the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of our nation's armed forces.

Indeed, there is no mission more vital and no cause more noble than to be a defender of freedom, particularly when the values we cherish are under attack and when our citizens are going into harm's way.

We know this has been a challenging year, as we remain engaged on several fronts supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Over the past year, we have traveled to many places just to look you in the eye and to offer our thanks for what you're doing for the Air Force and for America. No matter where we go

Enjoy the holidays, be safe

By Gen. Gregory S. Martin
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — As we enter the 2003 holiday season, I want each of you to know how grateful I am for the work and contributions you offer to our Air Force, our nation and, indeed, to our entire world.

Each year at this time, we have the opportunity to celebrate with family members, friends and co-workers the gifts of freedom and liberty. We often reflect on the sacrifices of those who went before us to secure those gifts. And always, we try to take a few moments to offer our prayers and blessings to those who serve today, away from families and friends, in harm's way, in order to give others the opportunity to enjoy the same gifts we cherish in America.

As you enjoy good times and camaraderie this holiday season, strive to be safe in everything you do. You are incredibly valuable - to your

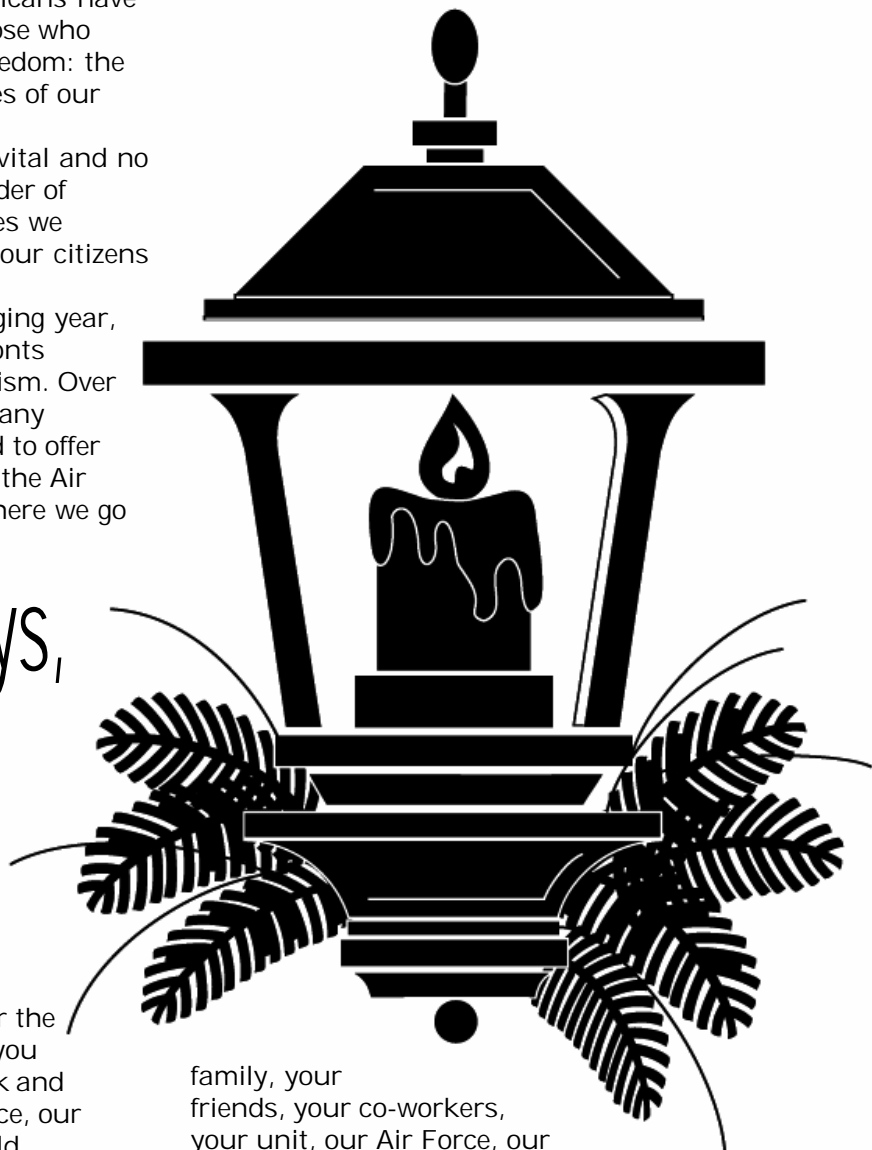
we're always amazed with your talent, dedication and professionalism.

Your service has been stellar. You are why we have the best air and space force the world has ever known.

We are also humbled by the sacrifices made by your families as you work long hours or deploy far from home. Our families are the source of support that enables us to serve with pride and enthusiasm and defend the democratic ideals of our great country. During this special season, our thoughts and prayers will be with them.

Americans are grateful for your selfless service. You have earned their trust and support through your courage, bravery and sacrifice. And, simply put, we are honored to serve with you.

It is our hope that you will have a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

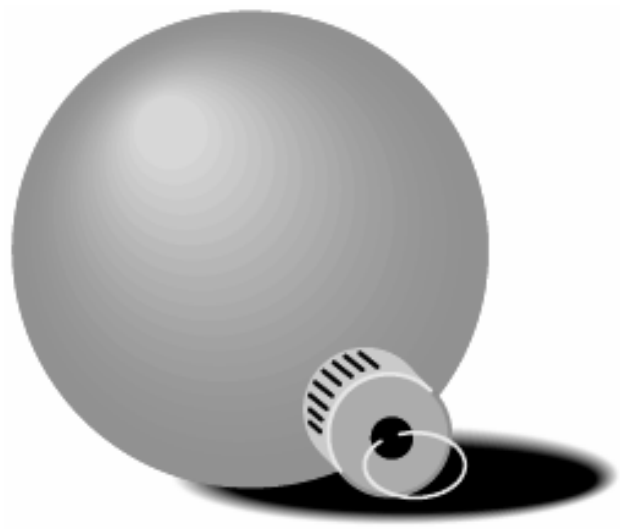


family, your friends, your co-workers, your unit, our Air Force, our nation - and to me!

Our ability to do the AFMC mission really does depend on you ... and your performance in 2003 has been nothing short of superb. Your sense of duty and dedication to our mission enabled you to deliver war-winning technology, acquisition support and expeditionary capabilities to the warfighter. You have earned the respect of our entire Air Force, but there is more work to be done in the New Year and we need each of you back in 2004 ready to take this command to the next level.

As you take advantage of this time of year to relax with family and friends please take a moment to reflect with pride on your personal contributions. In doing so, I think you'll be recharged, reenergized and refocused to accomplish even greater things in the New Year!

God bless each of you and may you have a joyous holiday season!





Brooks exceeds goals, earns CFC awards

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Doing more with less is an age-old efficiency theme that was further validated recently when the 311th Human Systems Wing earned recognition for its contributions to the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, received the CFC's Special Recognition Award and also accepted the organizational Bronze Award at a Dec. 10 ceremony during the HSW commander's call.

"The Special Recognition Award is presented to an individual who has done work of special note to help the (CFC) campaign. It's based on my determination of the support received from the top (leadership)," said Alex Slate, United Way loaned executive who works as an acquisition facilitator for the Acquisition Center of Excellence at Brooks.

Travis was specifically honored for his commitment to CFC, highlighted by what Slate described as an inspiring address on how CFC positively impacts the lives of those it supports. His motivational remarks, made during the inaugural Wing commander's call that launched the campaign, and Travis' subsequent support at other public venues, earned him the honor. "The key to success for CFC is having the right (amount of) attention and level of support at the top leadership level. It makes a difference between success and failure," Slate said.

The 311th HSW commander's support was mirrored by the Brooks community which, according to Slate, "gave more with less." While the base's 2003 CFC goal of \$253,000 was



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, left, receives the CFC's Special Recognition Award from United Way's loaned executive Alex Slate during a recent commander's call.

the same as last year, Brooks again exceeded it, but with less people making contributions. Brooks workers contributed \$319,000, which represents 127 percent of the base's goal.

Slate explained that organizational CFC goals are based on payroll. The criteria for earning CFC medallion awards, that include gold, silver and bronze, is calculated using a formula that determines a workforce's 'potential' to donate based on the annual gross payroll. To earn the Bronze Award, an organization must meet 50 percent of its potential contributions.

"We did a little better this year. With a shrinking payroll and shrinking manpower, we gave more which is significant. Last year we gave over \$316,000, but our payroll was bigger," Slate noted, explaining that Brooks did not qualify for the Bronze Award in 2002, receiving a special organizational recognition award instead.

Slate credited CFC project officer Maj. Jeff Owen, with the 311th Human Systems Program Office; the Brooks CFC committee and key workers for their collective work that led to the base exceeding its CFC goal. He noted that a large number of federal agencies in Bexar County did not reach their CFC goal.

SPO earns record 12th commander's award

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In their version of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," the 311th Human Systems Program Office received an early holiday gift as the quarterly recipient of the base's highest honor.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, presented the Commander's Award to the SPO's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Protection Team Dec. 5.

This was the twelfth time a SPO unit/individual has earned outright or shared this prestigious honor since the award's inception in 1994.

The 311th Communications Squadron is second to the SPO in the number of commander's trophies it has won with seven.

The 41-member CBRN Protection Team earned the award on the strength of its Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom warfighter support.

Specifically, the team delivered ready-to-use, advanced protection equipment that fulfilled a critical Air Combat Command requirement involving groundcrew NBC ensembles. This delivery was expedited by the team's pioneering ground mask improvement work that led to unprecedented warfighter protection and survivability levels.

Among the honoree's many accomplishments during the period of April-June 2003 was their contributions to the Joint Service Aircrew



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, presents the quarterly Commander's Award to the 311th Human Systems Program Office's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Protection Team recently. This was the twelfth time a SPO unit or individual has earned the award, giving them the most Commander's Awards of any unit at Brooks.

Mask program.

The team's innovative work supporting the \$415 million JSAM initiative involved coordination with nine test agencies that supported the development of this next generation protective mask for all DoD aircrews.

Additionally, the team headed an Air Force team that showcased the service's leadership in advanced NBC protection development by helping assemble the Collective Protection shelter display at the Homeland Security/Global Summit in Washington, D.C.

The team also significantly contributed to warfighter preparedness by producing the first-ever training video/CD on collective protection transportable shelters.

Buckle up for Safety!



AF suicide prevention program recognized

Mental Health Commission hails it as 'model program'

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A landmark University of Rochester study of suicide in the U.S. Air Force concluded that the service's suicide-prevention program reduced the risk of suicide by 33 percent during the past six years.

The research was reported in the Dec. 12 edition of the British Medical Journal.

"This is a prestigious international medical journal, and the fact that they have published this means that the Air Force suicide prevention program is being seen as model program with every expectation that it can be exported to other settings both large and small," said David Jobes. He is a professor of psychology at The Catholic University of America.

"There is nothing that compares with this program," said Jobes, a past president of the American Association of Suicidology. "There have never been results quite as striking as these."

// *There is nothing that compares to this program. There have never been results quite as striking as these.*

//
David Jobes
Psychology professor

University of Rochester Medical Center officials analyzed data collected by the Air Force on its active-duty airmen from 1990 to 2002.

"What we gained from this investigation is a remarkable global view of violence prevention in a tightly organized group of people under considerable job stress," said lead author Kerry Knox, an assistant professor of community and preventive medicine at the University of Rochester.

"The Air Force was successful in that they reached out to all folks, instead of just those identified at high risk. I believe this approach can be replicated in other workplaces," Knox said. Key lessons could be adapted to police and fire departments, large corporations, schools, universities and small countries, she said.

Concerned with escalating rates at

which active-duty members took their own lives, in 1996 Air Force leaders made suicide prevention a priority, officials said. They established 11 initiatives to decrease the stigma associated with mental health problems and established a community-based approach in which everyone invested in taking care of one another.

The Rochester study was the first of its kind in many respects, Knox said. Although risk factors for suicide are fairly well-known, little research exists on what might prevent the tragedy. Knox and her colleagues studied all airmen, not just those at high risk, which is the more typical approach.

Researchers compared Air Force rates of suicide, homicide, accidental death and family violence before and after the suicide-prevention program was in place in 1996. Severe family violence declined 54 percent, while homicides dropped 51 percent, suicides decreased 33 percent and accidental deaths slid 18 percent, according to the study. Measuring change in social norms is more difficult, but the researchers said that in a random survey in 1999, 73 percent of unit commanders were aware of and concerned about suicide prevention.

"Dr. Knox's study illustrates that when an entire community becomes involved, (suicides) can be reduced," said Lt. Col. Rick Campise, Air Force

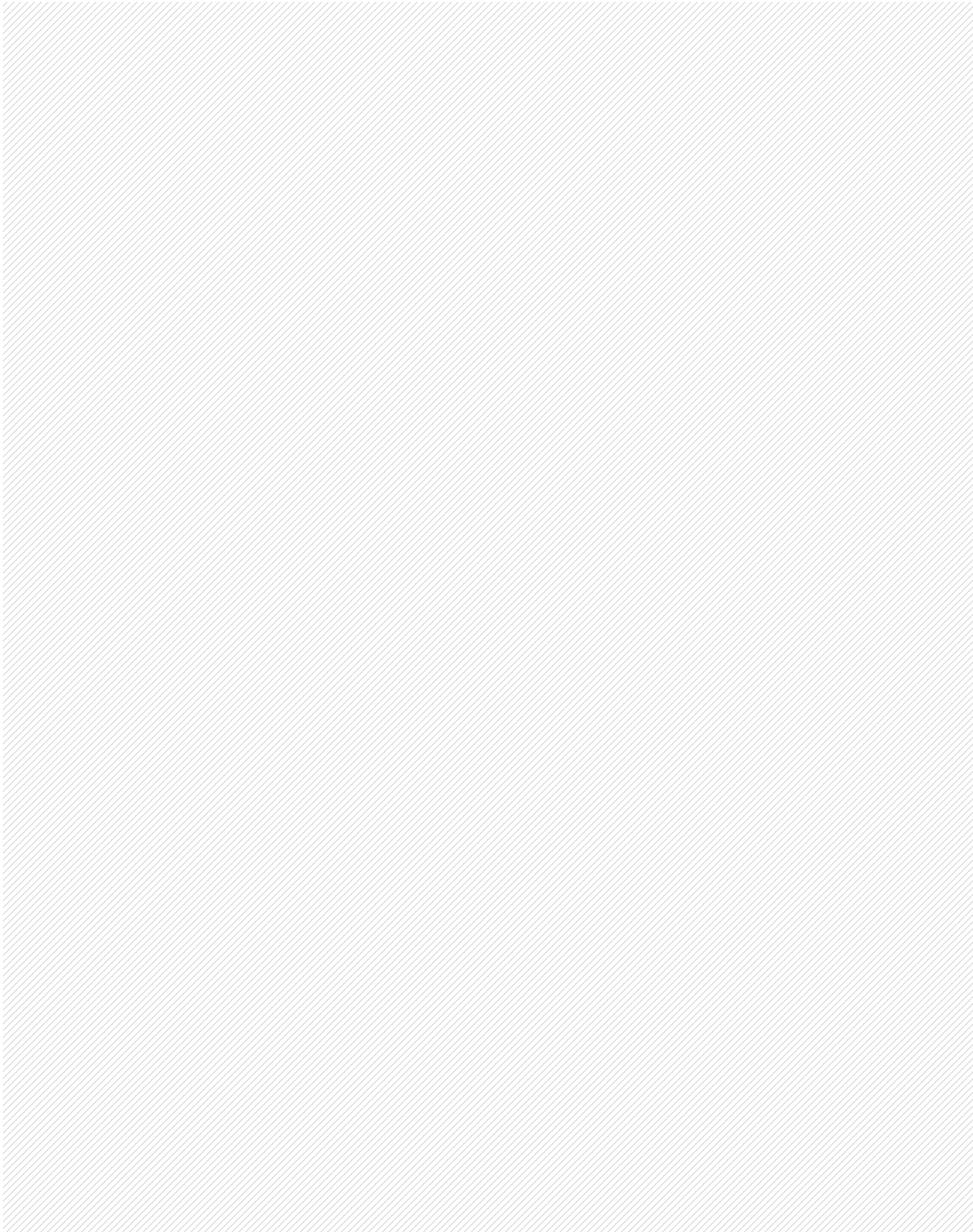
suicide-prevention program manager.

In August, the program was hailed as a "model program" in a report released by the president's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

The Air Force uses an integrated system of chaplains and professionals from mental health, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers, and family advocacy. All of them work together and take responsibility for prevention. This community approach to suicide prevention launched to national prominence in 2001 when then-U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher made the program a model for the nation and incorporated it into the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Suicide rates in the Air Force have declined throughout the last six years. From 1991 to 1996, the active-duty suicide rate was 14.1 per 100,000. From 1997 — the year in which the prevention program was fully implemented — through 2002, the annual average was 9.1 per 100,000. The service's suicide rate in 2002 was 8.3 per 100,000 people — its second lowest in 20 years.

As of Dec. 11, there had been 34 suicides among active-duty airmen in 2003 — a rate of 9.9 per 100,000. No suicides were among active-duty airmen deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, officials said.





Civilians will see increase in pay

By Maj. John Thomas

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — While a civil service pay bill awaits congressional action, Air Force civilian employees should see an average 2-percent increase in their January paychecks.

Air Force Personnel Center officials said a 2-percent increase for general schedule employees will go into effect automatically and that they are ready to process an expected total 4.1-percent pay increase if and when it passes Congress. The additional 2.1-percent average pay increase would be retroactive to the effective date, which should be Jan. 11, officials said.

Officials here plan to work quickly to ensure individual personnel records are updated as soon as possible, they said.

"If the proposed increase in pay goes through, we're prepared

to facilitate the change as soon as we get the go-ahead from DOD," said Charles Huerta, director of civilian personnel operations at the center. After that he said he expects people will see the increase, as well as any back pay, within two paychecks after the change is processed.

"This is not the first time this has happened, so we're confident we know how to update records accurately and fairly quickly," Huerta said.

Answers about individual civilian personnel records are available by calling (800) 616-3775 weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST. Hearing-impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893, or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees will first dial the AT&T toll-free direct access number for the country that they are in, and then (800) 997-2378.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

AFPC passwords now reset online

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE (AFPN) — More than 500 people forget their passwords to the Air Force Personnel Center's customer service Web applications every day. Many of them are unaware they can reset a password on their own online within seconds, officials said.

"Instead, hundreds of people call the technical assistance center number, which yields the same result, but takes five to 10 minutes longer," said Danny O'Neil, chief of the information assurance branch at the center here. "Obviously getting a new password online instantly is the best option.

"Logging in can sometimes be a frustrating process," he said.

"But resetting a password online will save folks time and effort."

For online resets, people need to provide their social security number and mother's maiden name, O'Neil said. The system is case sensitive. First-time users need basic personal information including civilian service computation date, or pay date for military, he said. Common access card users can create an account using the security "certificates" on the card and the card reader.

To access Virtual Military Personnel Flight or other online personnel resources, visit the secure Web site at: <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Jacket, pullover require nametags

New regulation takes effect in the new year

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE (AFPN) — The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

Effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials at Randolph Air Force Base. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag.

An exception to the new policy is when a command insignia is

worn by either men or women. It is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag. Then, the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the airman is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more information, Brooks personnel can call the military personnel flight at 536-1845 or contact the installation commanders support staff.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)



ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play. If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222. Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response. The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Col. Tom Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900
Housing Office.....	533-5905
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BX Market.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Grant applications accepted

The General Henry R. Arnold Education Grant program awards \$1500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of:

- Active duty, Title 10 Air National Guard/Reserve personnel on extended active duty, and Title 32 Guard/Reserve performing full-time active duty.
- Members who retired due to length of active duty service or disability, or retired Guard/Reserve with 20-plus qualifying years creditable for retired pay.
- Servicemembers deceased while on active duty or in retired status.

Spouses of active duty and Title 10 Guard/Reservists on extended duty stationed stateside, and surviving spouses of Air Force members who died while on active duty or in retired status are also eligible.

The grant will be awarded to a high school graduate enrolled or accepted as a full-time

undergraduate student in the 2004-2005 academic year. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. Pick up an application at the Family Support Center, in Bldg. 537, or call 536-2444 during duty hours for details. Application information is also available on the Web site at: www.afas.org. Application deadline is March 12.

Separation and retirement

Jan. 28, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This class is mandatory for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics include pre-separation, veterans benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE and financial planning for transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

VA benefits assistance hours

Wednesdays, alternate Fridays, 9-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The on-site VA representative at Brooks now has expanded hours to better accommodate base personnel. Schedule an appointment to receive claims assistance, screen medical records or have a one-on-one consultation.

Consumer credit counseling

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—

You can get out of debt with a debt management plan. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment with a credit counselor.

Call the Family Support Center at 536-2444, or toll free at 877-747-5938, to register for class, make an appointment or for more information.



Merry Christmas puzzle

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

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ACROSS

- 1. Christmas Eve visitor
- 5. Item used to decorate Christmas presents
- 9. Referring to the environment
- 11. Stereo button (abbrev.)
- 12. Military commander's place of control (abbrev.)
- 15. Female sheep
- 16. Christmas present cover
- 19. Terminate
- 20. Anger
- 21. Glimpse
- 22. Dally
- 24. Water
- 25. News org. founded by Turner
- 26. School subject
- 27. Top
- 30. Compass direction
- 32. Deal with
- 33. 1 ACROSS tool to control reindeers
- 34. Eras
- 36. Item left for 1 ACROSS
- 37. Item needed for a white Christmas
- 39. Wash
- 42. Housing extension
- 44. Items 1 ACROSS delivers
- 45. Skillful
- 47. European currency
- 48. How 1 ACROSS gets into homes
- 51. By way of
- 53. ___ out a living
- 55. Tree
- 56. JLo scent
- 57. Mistake
- 58. German one
- 59. Tarzan once
- 60. Charged particle
- 61. Rational

- 62. One more (Latin)
- 63. Branch of DoD

DOWN

- 1. Kelp
- 2. Tree starter
- 3. Military org. that tracks 1 ACROSS
- 4. Actor Greene
- 6. Protrude
- 7. Amaze
- 8. 1 ACROSS method of transportation
- 10. Back of the neck
- 13. Andy's boy
- 14. Ajar
- 17. Mideast country
- 18. Writer Rand
- 23. Dined
- 24. Time piece maker
- 25. Company head (abbrev.)
- 26. Symbol of Alaska?
- 28. USAF military inspection (abbrev.)
- 29. Director Brooks
- 31. Rap artist who released Country Grammar
- 35. Male offspring
- 38. Holmes' assistant
- 39. Item left for 1 ACROSS
- 40. Keyboard key
- 41. Rat Pack _____ Davis Jr.
- 42. 1 ACROSS helpers
- 43. Catch on
- 44. Where 1 ACROSS puts 44 ACROSS
- 45. Type of American naval ship; ___ cruiser
- 46. Support
- 49. Part of the foot
- 50. Sick
- 52. A Gershwin
- 54. Lord of the Rings character



'Fiesta veterans' become Brooks 2004 Ambassadors

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

They previously experienced San Antonio's annual Fiesta celebration as Brooks observers. Now as the 2004 Brooks Ambassadors, Capt. Melissa Mouchette and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher will participate in Fiesta as Air Force representatives promoting City-Base.

Calling the Brooks ambassador program an important community outreach activity, Col. Tom Travis told attendees at the Dec. 11 ambassador announcement ceremony at Hangar 9 that he was proud of all the candidates who participated. He said this year's competition was "extremely tight."

"People remember the ambassadors. It's a very important job. It's on top of all the things (that) you do (for Brooks)," the 311th Human Systems Wing commander said.

Mouchette, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine chief of the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory's Clinical Operations Branch, said she was motivated to become a Brooks ambassador by what she observed last year during Fiesta.

As a volunteer Fiesta driver for base leaders, the 36-year-old Tuscaloosa,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, left, stands with the 2004 Brooks Fiesta Ambassadors, Capt. Melissa Mouchette and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher, both assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, during the recent announcement ceremony at Hangar 9.

Ala., native said, "As I stood beside the bleachers watching the parade, I was filled with overwhelming pride to see not only my ambassadors, but also every other service represented, active and retired. When the vehicle carrying former POWs from Vietnam and the Korean War passed by, I was awestruck. As they passed, distinguished visitors and general officers seated in front of me spontaneously stood at attention and saluted them."

Mouchette is well-suited for her new role as ambassador. She has been involved in community outreach work,

most notably as a volunteer serving meals to homeless families at the St. Vincent DePaul food shelter.

Mouchette also has supported Brooks community events including Retiree Appreciation Day and Base Chapel activities.

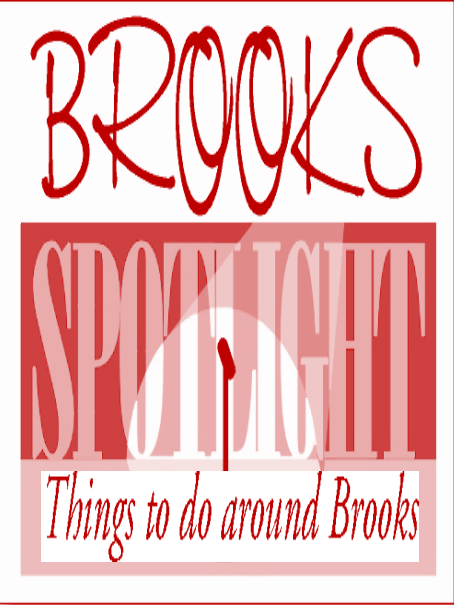
Fulcher, noncommissioned officer in charge for USAFSAM's Advanced Distributed Learning, has the experience and poise needed for the highly visible and demanding role of ambassador. The 37-year-old Magee, Miss., native previously served as Presidential photographer and White House

Photo Lab Digital Imaging Manager, part of the White House Communications Agency.

However, it was as NCOIC of the Armstrong Laboratory's Multimedia Center during his last tour here from 1995-1997, that Fulcher learned firsthand how special 'Fiesta moments' can be.

"I was the base photographer," Fulcher said, referring to his special duty covering the Brooks ambassadors' participation in Fiesta. He recalled a memorable moment when the spotlight unexpectedly shone on him. "(Brig.) Gen. (Robert) Belihar (former 311th HSC commander) said to me, 'No one ever takes the photographer's picture.' He then took a photo of me with (then) Governor (George) Bush," Fulcher said.

Fulcher and Mouchette are joined by 10 other people who applied to become Brooks ambassadors in 2004. These people include Airman 1st Class Christopher Ross, Senior Airman Michael Chacon and Sandra Wester from the 68th Information Operations Squadron; 2nd Lts. Christopher Saldana and Margaret Montgomery, and Roger Morales from the 311th Human Systems Program Office; USAFSAM's Staff Sgt. Sunny Siler; the 311th Medical Squadron's Staff Sgt. Kathryn King; Sharon Earley from the Wing's Contracting Office; and the Air Force Research Laboratory's Staff Sgt. Angelica Broner. The 12 ambassadors will support the numerous science fair judge, speaker, and career day support requests received in Public Affairs in addition to their participation in more than a dozen community parades.



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

Family Child Care

Bldg. 502, 536-2736

The Brooks Family Child Care Program is accepting applications from responsible adults to provide quality child care in government quarters and peace of mind to working parents. Licensed child care providers must be at least 18 years of age and able to read and write English. Applicants must complete the following steps to become licensed:

- Attend Family Child Care orientation training. The training includes sessions about child guidance and development.
- Complete training courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.
- Acquire a minimum of \$300,000 in liability insurance required for home day care providers.
- Be willing and available to get home inspections by the fire, safety and Public Health offices and the Family Child Care office to ensure safety for children in your care.

The Family Child Care staff offers support to providers on base, including guidance and answers to questions, as well as support from the Lending Closet for necessary equipment, furniture and toys to get started. There are currently only three providers on base and the Child Development Center has a waiting list for children younger than three years.

For more information contact Family Child Care Coordinator Jeanie Smith at 536-2041 or stop by Bldg. 1154.

Sidney's

Bldg. 714, 536-3538

Stop by Sidney's Tuesdays and Thursday from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and sample the sandwich menu. Try ham, turkey, beef or pastrami served with baked beans, potato salad and soda for \$4.95 or just a sandwich for \$3.50.

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

There's still time to let Santa's helpers wrap your gifts for you. Bring gifts to the Youth Center between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. through Dec. 23. Donations are accepted and wrapping paper and ribbon are provided.

Golf course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

The Brooks Golf Course now has cappuccino. Be one of the first to try our specialty coffees. Stop by seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. until dusk. Select from French Vanilla, Almond Amaretto or Butternut Cocoa. Purchase a 12-ounce cup for 75 cents, 16-ounce cup for 85 cents or a 20-ounce cup for 95 cents. Bring in the coupon and get any size for the price of a 12-ounce cup. Keep your eyes open for Krispy Kreme doughnuts, too.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

If you need someplace to put those extra items around the home or office, rent an indoor storage unit and clear up the clutter. Brooks has 48 units on the flightline across from Outdoor Recreation. A 6' x 12' unit rents for \$35 per month and a 12' x 12' \$60 per month. Call 536-2881 or stop by Bldg. 1154 for more information about storage units, the RV Storage Lot, Fam Camp, Lemon Lot or rental items.

Child Development Center

Bldg. 502, 536-2736

The Child Development Center Parent Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Jan. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Base Chapel. The committee consists of parents from the CDC, Family Child Care and Youth Services but any one who has an interest in the youth programs at Brooks is welcome. The Child Development Center has several full time slots available for children ages 12 months through 5 years of age. Children of parents at Brooks are eligible to enroll, including active duty military, DoD civilians, retirees, contractors and NAF personnel in any 311th Mission Support Group position or at AAFES. Until the vacancies are filled, hourly drop-in care may be available for \$3 per hour per child. Call Nita White for details. The CDC renovation project is progressing as planned. The staff plans to host an open house in the spring in conjunction with the Children's Fair.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Make plans to attend the annual New Year's Eve Party at the Brooks Club. Festivities start at 8 p.m. and end after the New Year is ushered in. Guests will enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, party favors, breakfast and DJ music by Marvin Lee. Cost is \$7.50 per person and tickets can be purchased from the cashiers.



NEWS briefs

Interviewing workshops

If you are uncomfortable during an interview, the Brooks Black Employment Program provides an opportunity for you to enhance your interviewing skills with a series of workshops scheduled throughout Jan. and Feb. The workshops include Tips/Techniques for Interviewees, Jan. 22, One-on-One Interviews, Jan. 29; Panel Interviews, Feb. 5 and Telephone Interviews, Feb. 12. Sessions run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Bldg. 775. Register at: <https://hswya2.brooks.af.mil/common/> or contact the following committee members after Jan. 5 for more information: Josie Swindell at 536-6312, LaWanda Roper at 536-2444, Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Davis at 536-6723, Mary Urey at 536-4348, or Juan Martinez at 536-6326. Registration deadline is Jan. 13.

The Black Employment Program Committee seeks several GS/GM-13 or Lt. Col. and above volunteers to participate as interviewers for the workshops. Volunteers may participate for one or more sessions. Please call Josie Swindell or Juanita Jasper at 536-5440 for more information.

Scholarship applications accepted

Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full- and part-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian or family member community. Independent evaluators judge 600-800 word essays.

Applications are available at Brooks, Kelly, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases or Fort Sam Houston Libraries, Education Offices, or Family Support Centers. Applications may also be downloaded

from www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/. Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m., Feb. 5. The scholarships will range from \$500-\$1,000 and will be awarded at the Scholarship Luncheon, 11:15 a.m., Feb. 25, at Brooks. For details, call 1st Lt. Lorrie Carter 536-4896 or 1st Lt. Goldie Boone at 536-6727.

Wings of Change cookbook

The new Wings of Change cookbook, published by the Brooks Heritage Foundation, is available for purchase at the BHF Gift Shop. The new book features recipes from First Lady Laura Bush, Governor Rick Perry, Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, as well as many local restaurants. It also contains a substantial collection of recipes from people at Brooks and in the San Antonio community.

The book is a vinyl, three-ring binder, featuring the Sidney Brooks Memorial eagle on the cover. The cookbook is \$18 plus tax. BHF Gift Shop is located in the Aeromedical Evacuation Annex, adjacent to Hangar 9. Gift Shop hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 531-9767 or e-mail bhf@satx.rr.com.

Clinic presents celebration

The Medical Clinic presents a New Year's Resolution Celebration at 10 a.m. Jan. 5. Information on exercise, diet and disease management will be available in the clinic lobby, as well as healthy snacks and tips on how to establish a successful exercise program.

Beginning in January, clinic hours change to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The clinic just completed a yearlong project to upgrade the facility to improve access, safety and comfort for its patients.

Toastmasters

Hangar 9 Toastmasters meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 in Bldg. 559. Toastmasters provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment to develop communication and leadership skills, foster confidence and personal growth. Call 2nd Lt. Laura Chavez at 536-2086 for details.

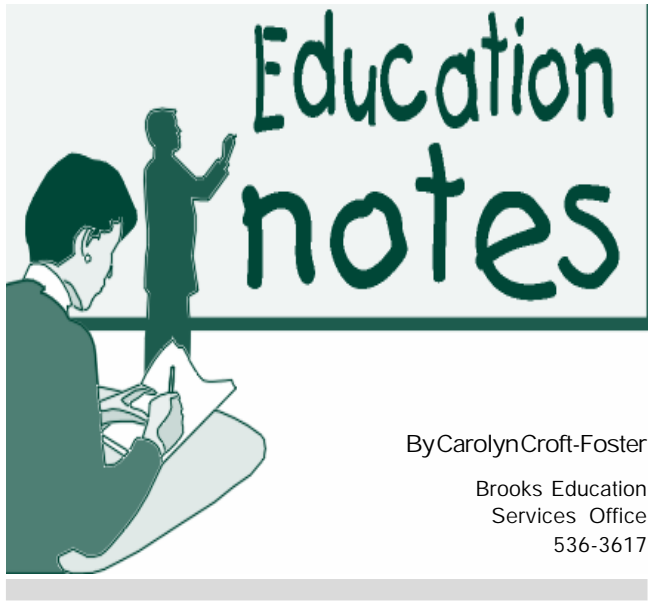
Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet qualifications are eligible for compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for information.

Altitude subjects

Altitude subjects are needed to help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Subjects must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546. The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division needs active duty volunteers, ages of 18 and 50 years who are able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam to participate in several studies. Call Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258.





BSC/MSC board selectees

Congratulations to Tech. Sgts. Renee Patterson, Wes Walker and John Weaver for recently being selected for commissions as lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force. Patterson was selected for a commission on a recent Public Health board; Walker was selected for commission as a future entomologist and Weaver was selected by the Medical Services Corps. They will attend Commissioned Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and be commissioned as second lieutenants before going to their new assignments.

CLEP Testing

The College Board is retiring paper based CLEP exams in fiscal 2004. The following exams will be recalled Jan. 31, 2004: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology, and Principles of Management. All other remaining subject exams will be retired March 31, 2004. Computer Based CLEP Exams are available at National Test Centers, but servicemembers cannot

request a reimbursement at the present time for these tests.

The fee for DANTES transcripts increased Oct. 1 for military members. The new fee is \$20. Also the cost of DSST exams for civilians will increase to \$45.

The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

St Mary's University

The St. Mary's University Randolph Air Force Base office will be closed for the holidays today through Jan. 4. St. Mary's offers graduate classes at Randolph AFB in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Engineering Systems Management. Registration for the Spring term is Jan. 7 and 8. Classes start Jan. 12. Late registration begins Jan. 12. The late registration fee is \$150. For information regarding St. Mary's graduate programs, call 658-4852. A graduate school representative is at the Brooks Education Center Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m.

Upper Iowa University degrees

Upper Iowa University now has an office in the Brooks Education Center. UIU offers bachelor's degree completion programs in Public Administration and Business beginning in January. The Spring schedule for classes at Brooks includes Math 105, College Mathematics, acceptable as a math credit for the Community College of the Air Force, Business Law I and Public Administration 364. Term dates are Jan. 12 to March 5. Registration continues through Jan. 2. Correspondence and online courses are also available. The UIU Center coordinator's office at Brooks is open for appointments Monday through Friday. Call 536-4033 or e-mail brooks@uiu.edu for more information.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air

Force Education Centers and Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to the following website and establish an account: www.afvec.langley.af.mil. For more information call 536-3617.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.

Discover Program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on their VA benefits account or would like to speak with an education case manager about VA education can call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-455, (1-888-GIBILL1), visit the website at: www.va.gov/education, or stop by the local VA field office at 3601 Bluemel in San Antonio. Information is also available on the Brooks home page and at the Brooks Education and Training Center in Bldg. 558.



Feature



Weins



FULL NAME:
Airman 1st Class Sean Anthony Weins

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Computer Networking Cryptographic Switching Systems technician, 68th Information Operations Squadron

WHAT IS MY JOB?:
I make bad computers good again

BIRTHDAY:
Dec. 30, 1974
(I'm way too old to be an A1C)

HOMETOWN:
Los Angeles

FAMILY STATUS:
Very happily married to the most awesome woman in the world with a beautiful brand new baby girl

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:
I don't have a nickname, but I tell everyone back home I'm a fighter pilot.

PERSONAL MOTTO:
"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." - Jim Elliott
"What we do in life echoes in eternity." - Maximus (from Gladiator)

INSPIRATIONS:
Jesus, my grandmother, the ocean, mountains, mom, dad, my wife, my daughter, Saul, Matt, Kevin and Heath and every U.S. combat veteran.

HOBBIES:
Computers, guitar, firearms, running, reading, surfing, snowboarding

PET PEEVE:
San Antonio drivers.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:
The Bible — the most life-changing thing I've read; Wild at heart, Tender Warrior, Developing the Leader Within

I JOINED THE MILITARY:
because of our current president and the Air Force's core values.

FIVE YEAR GOAL:
Pay off college loans and earn a master's degree

ULTIMATE GOAL:
Love and protect my family

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:
Depends on how much I won but I'd invest, buy a Caribbean island with a good surf break and a mountain with snow

FAVORITE MUSIC:
U2, Third Day, POD and Creed

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is getting my bachelor's of science degree in business communication.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is my Bible.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

'Mission Man'

By Steve VanWert
Staff writer

The recruiting posters all read "Join the military and see the world!" But Airman 1st Class Sean Weins, 68th Information Operations Squadron, did it the other way around - he saw the world, then joined the Air Force. You could say he's "mission oriented."

Wein's world travels began while enrolled at Southern Nazarene University in Tulsa, Okla. Through his church, he became a part of Real Impact Missions, a youth ministry program that sends young men and women to remote areas of the world. Weins was a youth counselor in Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, China, Hong Kong and Mexico, heading groups of about 25 16-to-18-year-old students in providing medical aid and education, construction help, English language classes and religious education when allowed.

"My first trip was to Mexico," Weins said. "I was 19 and in my first leadership position. It was amazingly spiritually fulfilling. Then I went to Venezuela where we distributed food, bibles and medical supplies to orphanages and remote villages."

Actually living with and sharing day-to-day hardships with other cultures is a life-altering experience, according to Weins. "I speak Spanish almost fluently, so I was able to communicate personally with the poor families in Central and South America," he said. "You

realize right away that these people have a different mind set than we have. They don't realize they have options to better themselves. They don't even dream of the things we take for granted. It really makes you appreciate how lucky we are in the United States."

Spreading the religious word through distributing bibles is sometimes difficult to do, he said. "In China, from Hong Kong to the mainland, it's really a gray area. Sometimes they'd let us through, and sometimes they wouldn't. It's a completely different world. The people have been depressed politically for so long, they don't know anything else. In some parts of China, a citizen can't travel from one town to another without official permission. It's like not being allowed to go from San Antonio to Austin without having your application approved."

But no matter what they were allowed to do, by the end of their 1-to-2 month missions, the people are always grateful for the help. "We stayed in the jungles of Panama for a week," Weins said. "It was like a National Geographic special on television. The natives think that all Americans do is take drugs, drink alcohol and have sex. They get all their views from the tabloids. We try to change their conceptions."

Sometimes, in areas where spreading the gospel is "a gray area," the mission members would tell the people stories about Christmas, describing the birth of Christ. "The

children, especially, love to hear that story," said Weins. But the children had to ask to hear the story before they could tell it. "That's the 'gray area.'"

While in Venezuela, Weins found another blessing. He met his wife-to-be while both were youth leaders. Now married, they recently celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter. "She's the most beautiful little girl," he said. They plan for one more family addition, as well. "We're hoping for a boy next time!"

After graduating from college, Weins set his mind toward the military. "I am very patriotic," he said. "I supported what President Bush was trying to do in Iraq and Afghanistan. I also believe deeply in the Air Force Core Values. I need to know I'm doing something important, part of a mission. I couldn't work for a company just because of the money, knowing they didn't have moral values like the Air Force. I'm really happy to be here in the 68th IOS. I honestly think I got assigned to the best squadron in the Air Force for my first term of enlistment. The 68th supports its own every chance we get. At every base event we are consistently the loudest, not because we like hearing ourselves yell, but because we are that proud to represent the Mighty 68th!"

Weins' goal, though, is to be an officer. He hoped to get a commission when he joined, but didn't qualify because of his non-technical degree. His recruiter advised him to enlist, continue his education through the Community College of the Air Force and apply for Officer Training School. That's what he did. He is applying for the April 2004 board and hopes to be selected. But even if it doesn't work out, Weins is content with his place in life, and the 68th IOS. He loves his job, even though he had to enlist as "open electronic," without a specific Air Force specialty code. "It was kind of scary, but I was able to get into exactly the job I wanted at basic training, so it all worked out great."

Weins credits Capt. John Tolentino, the 68th logistics support flight commander, with showing him many true traits of a leader. "Capt Tolentino is the kind of leader who believes that his rank means he should be the first one on the battlefield, and the last one off," said Weins. "Although we don't go into combat together on a regular basis, he is usually the last one to go home at night and makes sure that at any squadron event, everybody else gets to eat first. He eats last, always. His leadership is easy to follow because he leads by example."

Tolentino encouraged Weins to complete his CCAF technical degree in electronic systems technology. "He's big on education," said Weins, who is also preparing for a masters program in computer information systems.

There is one problem, though, with being stationed at Brooks and beautiful sunny San Antonio. "I love surfing and snowboarding," he said, "two things that aren't too available here in SA. But I'll get to somewhere equidistant from the beach and the mountains one of these days."

Don't doubt him. After all, he is the "mission man."

Steve.VanWert@brooks.af.mil



Brooks volunteers spread holiday cheer as 'toy elves'

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

While they don't know who has been naughty or nice, they do appreciate the spirit of holiday giving as "toy elves."

Several Brooks volunteers recently shed Air Force blue for holiday attire of mostly red and white, part of a vast army of support that their "Lord of the Ring" trilogy counterparts would envy.

"This is my third year as an Elf Louise Santa. I do it to bring presents to kids who don't get to see Santa," said Airman 1st Class Marshall Shambo, a 311th Medical Squadron flight medicine technician.

The 21-year-old Corpus Christi native has been so moved by his experiences as one of 650 volunteer Elf Louise Santas that he has recruited about a dozen co-workers to serve on "Santa teams." Teams consist of a Santa, a driver, and one or two Santa's helpers. Shambo began delivering donated toys to some of San Antonio's poorest neighborhoods this week, and plans to make a total of seven to eight delivery trips up until Christmas Eve.

"It's fun to see the look on all the little kids' faces when I show up with gifts. Most of their Christmas trees, if they have any at all, are bare," recalls Shambo, who thoroughly enjoys his role. These are children who never visit store Santas and whose dreams of getting a toy or two at Christmas are usually unfulfilled.

Annually, the Elf Louise Project provides these children with nearly 50,000 toys. For 18 years, Brooks'



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Sharon Earley, left, and Air Force retiree Bill Harrison place "Santa team" bags in distribution bins at Elf Louise headquarters at McCreeless Mall.

Sharon Earley has been involved with Elf Louise toy operations.

"I'm the shelf elf," said Earley, a 311th Human Systems Wing Contracting Directorate management analyst trainee.

The non-profit, Combined Federal Campaign Elf Louise Project was founded 35 years ago by San Antonio psychologist Louise Locker. Since its inception, the organization has processed and distributed close to two million toys to needy families.

This ever-growing operation primarily depends on donated gifts and a vast number of volunteers.

Earley manages Elf Louise's toy distribution center located in the

former Montgomery Wards store at McCreless Mall. It is there where an elf army estimated between 4,500 and 5,000 volunteers process donated toys over several months prior to and up through the holiday season. While Santa teams receive the most visibility in communities they serve, it is processing center work that is vital to Elf Louise operations.

"We operate in 50,000 to 60,000 square feet of space. We have to prepare Santa bags, containing wrapped toys for six to 10 families," Earley said, explaining that volunteers help stock shelves, manage inventory and gift wrap about 50,000 toys that comprise Santa bags for home deliveries. Bags of unwrapped "stocking stuffer" type toys are also filled by volunteers for Santa teams that give them to children they see on the streets. These teams also annually distribute about a ton of candy during their deliveries.

"The (Brooks) Top 3 and Company Grade Officers (Association) have helped with stocking and wrapping," Earley said, noting that other base organizations have provided volunteers, including the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

This year, Elf Louise will provide toys to 8,700 families, identified through the organization's telephone request line and in coordination with nearly 100 social service agencies.

CFC provides Elf Louise with a small budget, mainly to purchase batteries and special item toys not acquired through toy drives.

Volunteers provide Earley with a lot of feedback in terms of memorable moments. Among

"It's fun to see the look on all the little kids' faces when I show up with gifts. Most of their Christmas trees, if they have any at all, are bare."

Airman 1st Class Marshall Shambo
Brooks Elf Louise volunteer

her favorites involves a story related to her by a fellow American Red Cross worker two years ago.

"The family had lost everything in a home fire," Earley said, explaining that Elf Louise provides toys to fire victims based on Red Cross emergency referrals.

"When the Red Cross volunteer came to pick up toys she asked me, 'Do you have anything for the mother (of the family)?' I told her she could have a small brush and comb set. She later told me that when she asked the mom what she wanted for Christmas, the woman told her she just wanted something to comb her hair," Earley recalled, noting that her request was fulfilled immediately as the volunteer retrieved the gift-wrapped item from her car.

"It was serendipitous. The mom was thrilled," said Earley about an event that is just one of thousands of anecdotes that volunteers have collected over the years as they spread holiday cheer.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Each year, Brooks volunteers are found wrapping, stacking and delivering gifts in support of the Elf Louise program.





Midweek
mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each First Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Holiday services schedule
Christmas Eve services

December 24

- 7 p.m. — Protestant candlelight service
- 11 p.m. — Catholic Mass

Regular Chapel schedule
Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

- 12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
- 6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

- 7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

- 9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
- 10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education
- 9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult
- 10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.

Safety

Continued from Page 1

"Seat belts work — use them!"

Like an intoxicated driver, a fatigued driver performs poorly, too. Sheehan recommends getting plenty of rest and sleep if you're planning a trip this holiday season. Make frequent stops for naps and activities.

"Pushing yourself is inviting a mishap," he said. "Drive alert and arrive alive!"

And last, but certainly not least, don't forget that speed kills, Sheehan said.

"Exceeding posted speed limits or driving at an unsafe speed is the most common driver error in fatal accidents," he said.

"The holidays should be a time to enjoy our family and friends," he said.

"By taking the extra time to think ahead, you and your family can look forward to a joyous holiday season. So, enjoy the holidays, but keep safety in mind — it's everyone's business on and off duty.

For additional safety tips or assistance with planning a safe trip, contact the Brooks Safety Office.



Pay

Continued from Page 1

out-of-pocket expenses to zero by 2005. And we're on track to do this."

Military out-of pocket-expenses for housing are down to about 3.5 percent for January 2004 and "should be at zero in 2005," Penrod said.

"If you talk to a servicemember today (about their compensation) compared to their compensation package 10 years ago they are very pleased," she said. "The housing increase has been absolutely the right benefit at the right time. It shows we do value their commitment to the military and what they do for the country."

Another area of increased pay will be special and incentive pay, such as imminent danger pay and family separation pay. Those pay increases were made possible in part because of President George W. Bush's supplemental funding request in 2003, Penrod said. That request authorized funding for increases in imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 per month, as well as increases in the family separation pay and support allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month.

Other new measures in the 2004 compensation package allow services to offer incentive pay to get officers to extend overseas tours.

"Previously this was only offered to enlisted members," she said. The compensation policy has two principal thrusts, Penrod said. The first is to have an overall level of military compensation that is at least equal to the 70th percentile of the pay

of civilians with comparable levels of education. The other is to target special and incentive pays and bonuses to address retention problems that are specific to various occupations and recruitment problems.

Also, beginning in 2004, the new compensation package will start phasing in percentage increases each year. The increase is amounts offset under current law for military retirees with a Veterans Affairs disability of 50 percent or more and eligible to receive both military retirement and Veterans Affairs disability pay. Currently a veteran's retirement pay is reduced by a percentage of the disability pay received from VA.

Beginning in 2004, veterans will receive an increased portion of the "off-set" to their retirement pay, Penrod said. "And by 2014, the member will have the full concurrent receipt," she said.

Another pay benefit for veterans in 2004 will be in combat-related special compensation programs for retirees whose disability is directly related to combat or training for combat. Now all retirees will be eligible for these payments which essentially provide the equivalent of full concurrent receipt, Penrod said. The retiree must have had 20 years of service to qualify.

DOD officials said they remain committed to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living and will sustain a trained, experienced and ready force in the future.

Merry Christmas puzzle solution

S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S		B	O	W	S
E	C	O				O				N		V	O	L
A	O	R		O		R		O		A		E	W	E
W	R	A	P	P	I	N	G	P	A	P	E	R		I
E	N	D		I	R	E		E	Y	E		L	A	G
E			S	E	A		C	N	N		M	A	T	H
D	O	M	E		N	N	E			C	O	P	E	
	R	E	I	N		E	O	N	S		O			
M	I	L	K			L			O		S	N	O	W
			O		C	L	E	A	N	S	E			A
E	L	L		T	O	Y	S			A		A	P	T
L		E	U	R	O		C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	S
V	I	A		E	K	E		E	L	M		G	L	O
E	R	R		E	I	N		E	L	Y		I	O	N
S	A	N	E		E	T	A	L			U	S	N	

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Year in Review: 2003 Brooks sports showcased many firsts

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In a year filled with enough firsts worthy of consideration for the Guinness Book of World Records, Brooks sports enjoyed a renaissance of sorts in terms of a myriad of new activities and accomplishments.

Leading the list of unusual feats were veteran golfers Rudy Gonzales and Bob Hager who made base history as the only players to fire holes-in-one at the Brooks golf course in the same year.

Brooks varsity golfer Linda Jeffery also became the first woman in base history to win consecutive Air Force Materiel Command women's division titles. In what would be her final military tournament before she separated from the Air Force, Jeffery added to her legend as the greatest Brooks lady golfer of all time by firing a three-day, two-over-par 224 to capture the AFMC ladies' championship.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Taekwondo blackbelt Britt Barkley put on the base's first martial arts demonstration as part of Asian-Pacific Heritage events at Brooks.

The 311th Human Systems Program Office's Donovan Brown became the first Brooks racquetball player to be ranked as the number one player on base after he won the first tournament here in which players were 'seeded.'

The 68th Information Operations Squadron ended years of frustration when they won their first base intramural basketball championship, defeating the defending league champ.

Several new tournaments debuted

at Brooks, including the first "Battle of Brooks" Invitational Softball Tournament won by Randolph Air Force Base, the first "L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic" basketball tourney won by Lackland AFB, and the first National Softball Association state tournament, also won by Lackland.

While the first organized lunchtime basketball league was launched at the fitness center, the decades-long lunchtime soccer group competed for

the first time as a team in a tournament, participating in Lackland AFB's Defender's Cup.

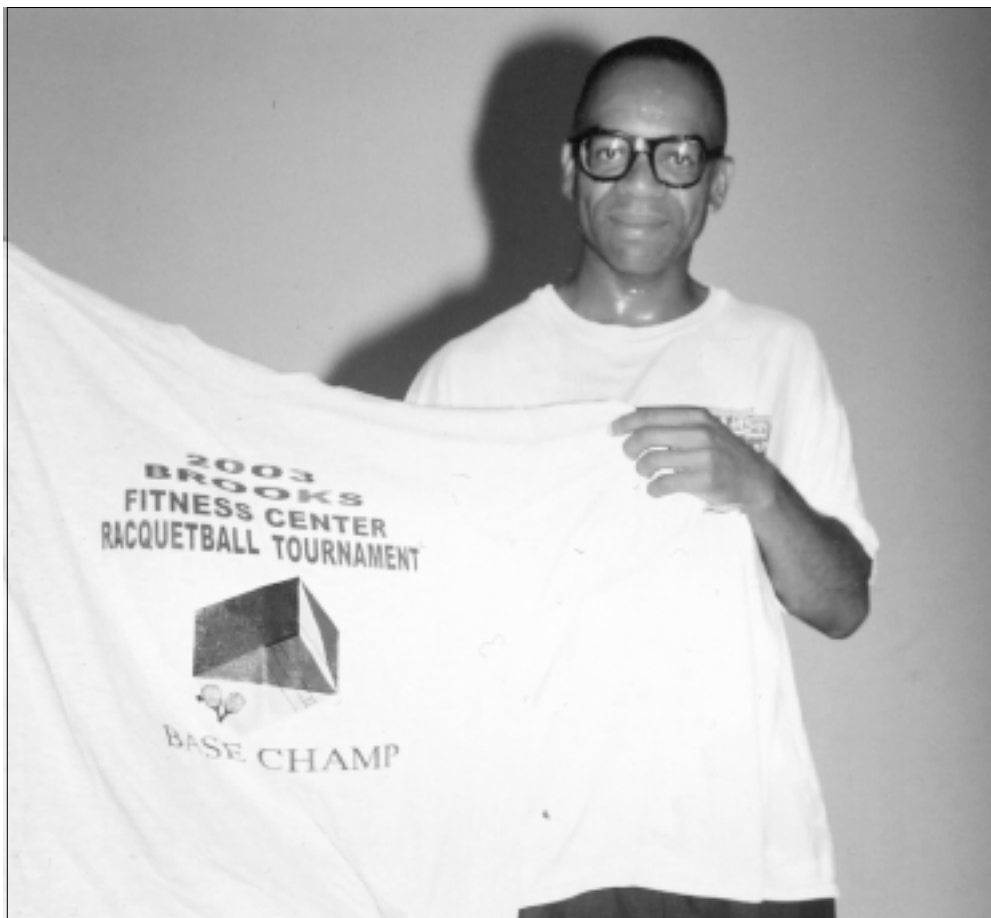
Visiting Brooks for the first time were the All-Army softball team, that played a three-game exhibition tourney here against Lackland AFB; and San Antonio Silver Stars representatives who held their first season ticket promotion at the fitness center for the team's inaugural Women's National Basketball Association season.

Power cycling debuted for the first time here, as well as a series of running clinics designed to help military members prepare for the new Air Force physical fitness program.

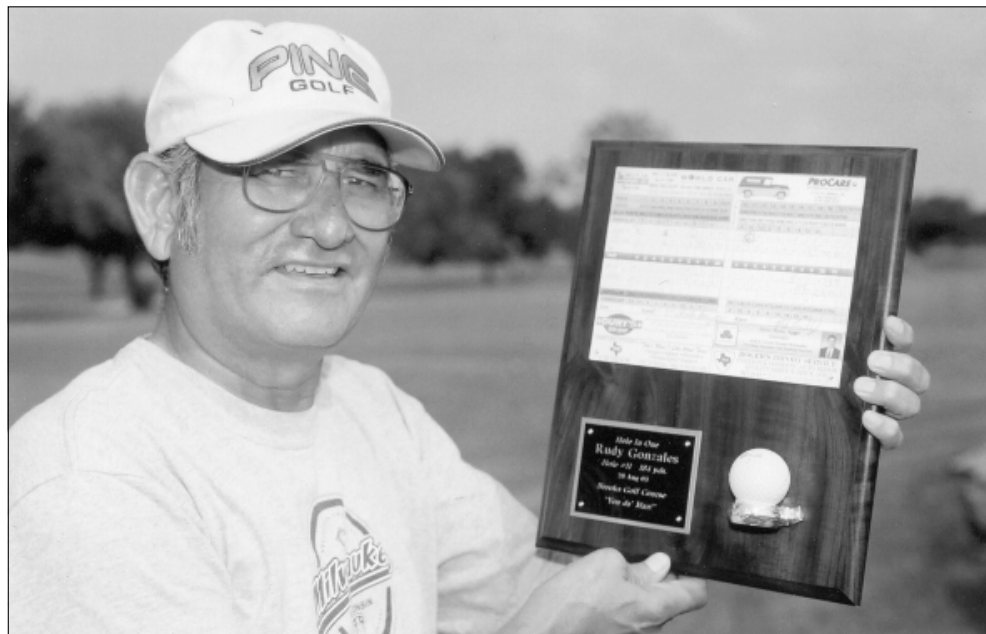
The base-wide Squadron Challenge changed its name for the first time, becoming Squadron Sports Day.

While they did not win the base's first AFMC basketball crown, the Brooks varsity team came real close as tournament runners-up while turning in the squad's best-ever performance at the command level. Unfortunately, the Brooks team will not get a second chance to achieve another base first as AFMC champs. AFMC, the last stateside Air Force command to hold annual tourneys, recently announced the termination of the command level tournament program for all sports.

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The 311th Human Systems Program Office's Donovan Brown became the first racquetball player in Brooks history to be 'ranked' number one after winning the 2003 base tourney.



Rudy Gonzales, pictured here with his "ace-in-the-hole" plaque, joined teammate Bob Hager as the first players in Brooks history to fire holes-in-one in the same year.

Fitness is the key to health

Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club now meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center. Call 536-2188 for more information.

January 1 begins the new PT program

Randolph airman records state records at Brooks meet

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Airman Adrian Jackson of Randolph Air Force Base set an American and state record in two events during the USA Powerlifting-sanctioned December Fest Powerlifting and Bench Press Meet at Brooks Dec. 13.

The 23-year-old, 178-pound Jackson set an open Junior American record of 694 and one-quarter pounds in the deadlift. Jackson accomplished the feat in his second of three attempts. He also established a Texas state record in the squat event

on his third attempt with a 573-pound lift.

This 10th annual meet, last held at Brooks in 2000, attracted just 18 lifters. "Most of them were trying to qualify for collegiate and military (championship) meets to be held in January and February," said Willie Mastin, the meet co-director and former state chairman for USA Powerlifting. The University of Texas at Austin had the meet's lone team entry.

No other records were set during the Brooks competition that featured a separate bench press meet and the three powerlifting events: squat, deadlift and bench press.

While Jackson sets records, he did not lift the most total weight.

Chris Kahanek, competing in the junior open category (20-23), lifted a total of 1,725 pounds which represents his best lifts in the three powerlifting events.

"We're already planning our next (big) meet," Mastin said, referring to the 11th annual December Fest that Brooks will host on Dec. 11, 2004. That meet will help raise donations for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

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